

## EDITOR'S REPORT

Once again, the editor's tasks have proved not at all onerous. I have continued to receive the support of the readers and writers of the Society's journal for which I am enthusiastically grateful. The journal has continued to receive a steady stream of articles and notes.

An increasing number of short communications are arriving in the form of 'Letters to the editor'—a sign, I hope, that the journal is an active and vibrant forum for entomological discussion. Although the journal does not accept advertising, announcements of meetings, events and books are included as a service to members and readers and are always useful in filling that half-page gap.

Despite only being at least approximately a quarterly journal, authors do not have to wait very long for their articles to find the light of day in print, a feature which encourages a wide range of authors to submit material. The average time between receipt of a manuscript and final publication is only 4 months. For the time being, the ability of the Society to finance colour plates in the journal should also continue to be a powerful attractant for manuscripts.

As usual, the report of the Annual Exhibition is a most time-consuming and trying exercise, and would be unthinkable without the generous assistance of the recorders.

The members of the editorial panel have assisted me endlessly through the last year, and I would like to pay personal thanks to Michael Tweedie who resigned from the panel at the end of 1991 after 29 years. This has left quite a gap in the editorial board, and following a suggestion from Raymond Uffen, I have sought to increase and expand the board from five members to, at present, twelve and will continue to increase it as necessary. These additions to the editorial committee cannot but improve the content of the journal and increase its prestige.

R. A. JONES

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**SHORT COMMUNICATION**

**The prevention of wobbly net syndrome.**—Wobbly net is not a condition that you will find described in medical textbooks but it is something that many entomologists suffer from. It is particularly prevalent amongst those who have abandoned brass or wooden handled nets in favour of lightweight aluminium poles of the type available from Maris House Nets or from fishing tackle shops. These poles have an inherent design fault in that the two pins that secure the brass head are made of a harder metal than the hollow aluminium tube they pass through. The consequence of this is that after a period of use the pins begin to wear away the aluminium and work loose. This can happen in less than one collecting season if the net is used for sweeping vegetation. The net begins to wobble and eventually the net and brass head drop off the pole, just as you reach out for the specimen that would have made you famous.

This disaster can be avoided by the simple expedient of placing a jubilee clip at the net end of the pole and tightening it until the two pins are held firmly in position. This needs to be done while the pin holes are still in good condition, i.e. before wobbly net has set in. A pole treated by myself in this way has survived three summers of rigorous use without any signs of deterioration. Jubilee clips are available from hardware shops, builders' merchants, etc and are used mainly for clamping hose pipes to metal inserts.—Andrew Halstead, 17 Highclere Gardens, Knaphill, Woking, Surrey GU21 2LP.